Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Lakes Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 131 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51907

Street: 225 E Vista Lake AVE **City:** Polk City Iowa **Zip** 50226 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 157, Polk City, IA, 50226

Director's Name: Emily Feldman **Phone Number:** 515-865-0001

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katelynn Joynes/Ashley Melton/Anne Sutton **E-Mail:** emily@lakeselc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-29-2022

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-28-2022

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-27-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	30	14	46	60	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-05-2022

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 11/29/22. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This center was given Permission to Open on 8/15/22, a preliminary visit took place on 7/20/22. This center is new construction, with 7 enclosed classrooms and an outdoor playground area separated into two sections. Emily Feldman is the director and owner. Emily has a Bachelor's degree in Business management and Spanish. Emily has two prior years experience in a childcare setting, with prior director experience. Emily meets qualifications to be the director. There are three on-site supervisors; Katelynn (Katie) Joynes, Anne Sutton and Ashley Melton. All three started when the center opened. Katie has 10 prior years of experience in childcare settings. Anne has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services, as well as a Mater's degree in school counseling. Anne has prior experience in a childcare setting. Ashley has six prior years of experience in childcare settings. All three meet qualifications for their positions.

The center serves children age 6 weeks up to 5th grade. The hours are from 6:30 am to 6 pm. The center is using 2nd Step, Pocket of Preschool and Learning without tears for handwriting for their curriculum. The center focuses on play based learning, and addresses the social and emotional developmental needs of the children as well as academic/learning needs. The lead teachers complete lesson plans.

The center has two infants classrooms, both with a capacity for 8 children. There is a one year old classroom that has a capacity for 14 children. There is a two year old classroom that has a capacity for 14 children. There is a classroom that can be used for children age two through 4, based on the need of the community; this room has a capacity for 21 children. There is a 3-5 year old preschool classroom which has a capacity for 25 children and a school age classroom which has a capacity for 60 children. The total capacity for the center is 150.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong enrollment.

The classrooms have good room arrangement and set up, with ease of movement and age appropriate toys/materials and centers for the children.

The center uses Pro Care for their app for daily communication with families, daily logs and signing children in and out of the center. There is strong communication between staff and families.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center owner has been able to recruit and retain staff, the center is fully staffed.

The center uses walkie talkies for help with communication between staff and management.

The center owner plans on applying for an IQ4K rating and has reached out to their CCR&R consultant.

The center will have a Christmas concert at the church.

The director/owner is very organized and is passionate about providing quality childcare.

The director will have monthly or every two month staff meetings.

The director provided the following for strengths for the center:

• Several staff with years of experience (2 staff 15+ years, several 5+) and/or related education ranging from early Childhood certificates to master's
• Offer benefits to full time staff
• High standards for on going professional development that exceed the minimum requirements, including 2 PD days annually
• Include many fresh fruits and vegetables and many made from scratch items. Incorporate new/unique foods into menu. Do not serve juice.
• Staff work well together & help out when/where needed
• On site management & leadership for duration of day / director or asst director closes nightly
• Play based program emphasizes developmentally appropriate practices
• Family style dining promotes independence, fine motor skills, social skills
• Convenient app for communication & payments
• Provide diapers, wipes, sleep sacks, blankets to make it as convenient as possible for parents
• Classrooms and playground well furnished/stocked and teachers are able to request additional materials that are needed
• Positive community relationships, including monthly visits from youth librarian, Fire/EMS visit, etc.
• Waitlist for all ages
• Regularly receive positive feedback from families
• Quarterly family event/activity

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
One prescription medication at the center was not stored in the original container with the label with physician or pharmacist directions.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has created a written emergency preparedness plan and an emergency disaster kit.

The center's menu reflects the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in November of 2022 and all rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center is new construction with a new furnace.

The owner received funding to put up a shade structure on the playground.

On 12/1/22 the director sent this consultant an email advising she received the container/label for the prescription medication.

Discussion took place regarding the kitchen area, which is located off a hallway that leads to the playground. The kitchen is open, without a door or barrier. The director/owner advised she will work with her architect and contractor on ideas for a

barrier to the kitchen area; such as a half wall with a door. The director purchased a gate to close this area off from the children, however the gate did not work well.

A full, two-year license is recommended.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.